

EDITION  
A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

OF

# Articles of Church Furniture,

CONTRIBUTED TO THE

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

OF THE

Works of Industry of all Nations,

1851.

DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED BY

(OR EXCLUSIVELY FOR)

GILBERT J. FRENCH,  
Bolton, Lancashire.



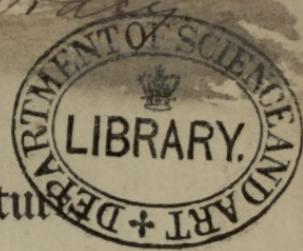
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“Solemn Duties of Public Service to be done unto  
GOD must have their places set and prepared in such  
sort as beseemeth actions of that regard.”

*Hooker.*

“If a man’s private house wherein he dwelleth be  
decayed, he will never cease till it be restored up again,  
how much more then ought the HOUSE OF GOD,  
which we commonly call the CHURCH, to be suffi-  
ciently repaired in all places, and to be honourably  
adorned and garnished, and to be kept clean and sweet,  
to the comfort of the people that shall resort thereto?”

*Homily for repairing and keeping clean of Churches.*

## Introduction.

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THE articles described in the following pages are exhibited under Class XXVI., "Furniture Decoration," &c., their locality being on the north side of the western or English nave, abutting on the centre avenue.

As they were necessarily in course of preparation many months before the opening of the Exhibition, and also before it was known in what position they would be placed, or what amount of space would be allotted to them, they do not present that congruous arrangement that was intended. Each Altar Table was meant to have an appropriate rear-hanging and carpet corresponding with its style of ornament and assumed date; but it was found impossible to carry out this arrangement in the limited space granted. Some of these are therefore omitted altogether, and the situations of others transposed: the intended appearance has consequently been greatly

and injuriously affected by an inharmonious arrangement of colours. This, however, is not mentioned as a complaint: a better situation could not have been selected, and grateful thanks are due to the Executive Committee for their kindness in allotting it. It was clearly impossible to meet the wishes of every exhibitor, and a little restriction in the amount of space, particularly in prominent situations, is a necessary consequence of the success of the Exhibition.

The articles exhibited have been prepared with express reference to the uses of the CHURCH OF ENGLAND. Avoiding the extreme opinions, in either direction, which have for some years agitated her members, efforts have been made to produce such Furniture only as may promote the "*decency and order*" which she enjoins for her services.

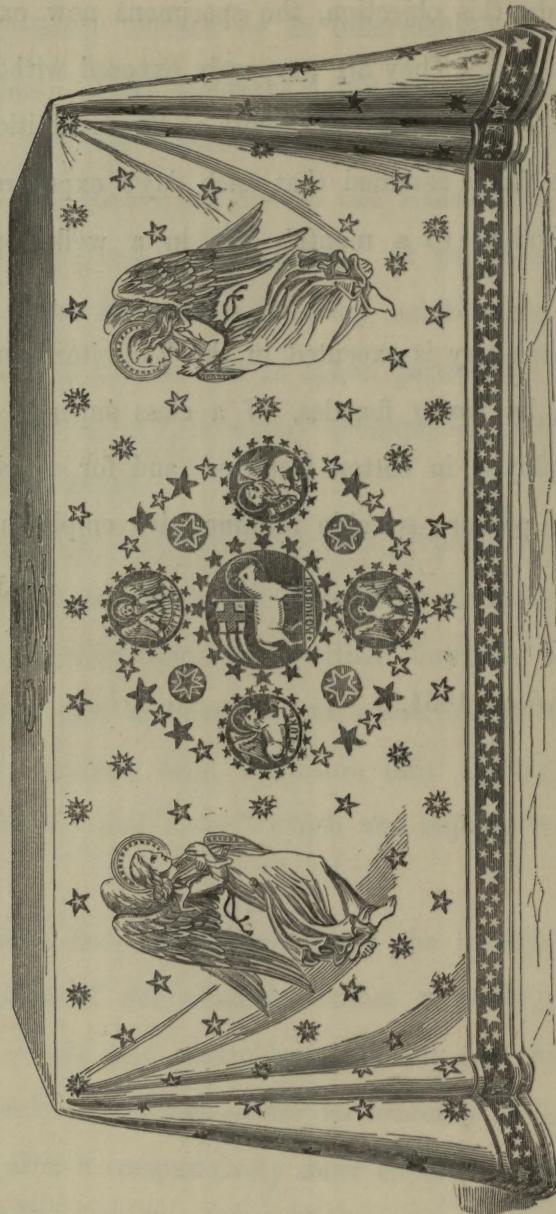
Whether from the inferiority of the material, or from the nature of our climate,—most probably from both causes,—the *gold* embroidery used in our churches has been justly complained of for its tendency to become tarnished after a comparatively short exposure. How far the introduction of silk embroidery (which, however, is not intended to represent gold, though often mistaken for it)

may remedy this objection, the specimens now exhibited serve as a test. They are purposely exposed without any protection from the dust and damp of the Exhibition, and it may be fairly assumed that each day's exposure is at least equivalent to a month's use in a well appointed church.

The embroidery is executed in the Exhibitor's premises in Bolton, by young females, of a class superior to the hands employed in cotton factories, and for which it is difficult to procure suitable remunerative employment.

G. J. F.

*Bolton, July, 1851.*



"Fair Linen Cloth" for the Holy Communion.

DESIGNED BY GILBERT J. FRENCH.

FAIR LINEN CLOTH FOR THE HOLY COMMUNION, WITH CORRESPONDING LINEN NAPKIN.—The devices on this Cloth are meant to be

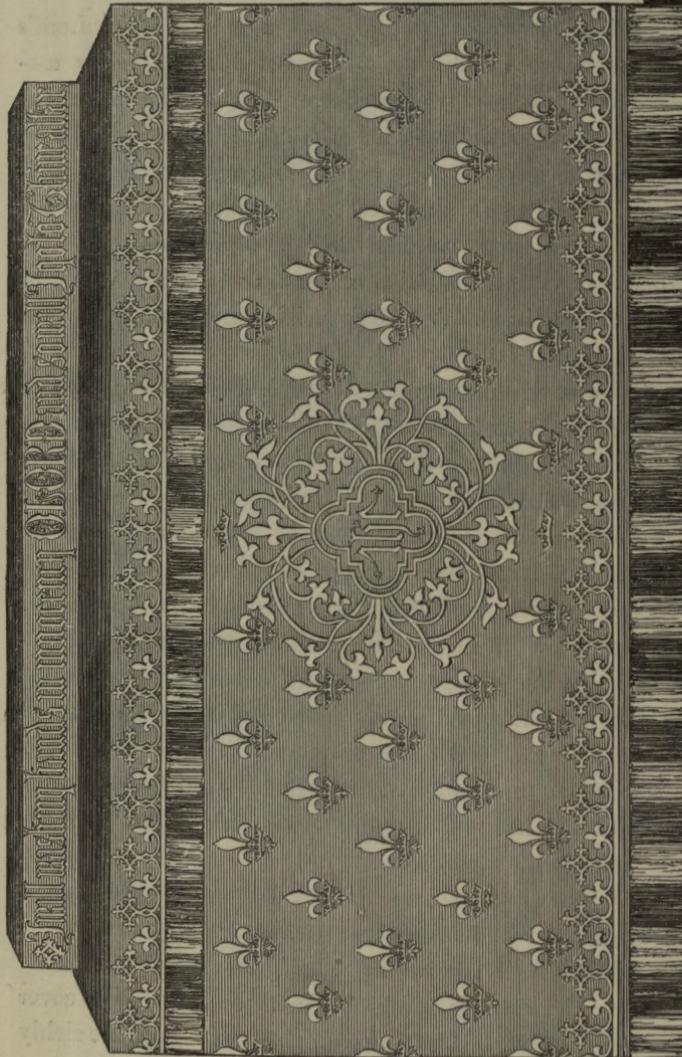
suggestive of the holy uses for which it is intended. It is powdered with stars, differing from each other in Glory, surrounding the Agnus Dei or Lamb of God, encompassed by the well known Apocalyptic symbols of the Evangelists, with descending Angels in attitudes of devotion on each side.

It is intended to envelope the top, front, and ends of the Lord's Table, an arrangement which, though objected to by many modern Ecclesiologists, is really more decent and orderly than the exposure of a soiled and shabby red cloth, (in many churches the only alternative,) when linen upon the top and ends only of the Altar is used; provision is, however, made for this arrangement, when desired, the same device being manufactured of a width suited to the top of the altar, but with the omission of the Angels, which would be incongruous in that position. A Napkin, with corresponding devices, is manufactured to suit.

The preparation of this pattern of Church Linen was commenced immediately after the announcement of the intended Exhibition, and with direct reference to that event. Of the design the Exhibitor declines to say more than that his wish has been to produce a fabric worthy of the occasion, and of the important Ecclesiastical uses for which it is intended. It has been manufactured for him by Mr. Erskine Beveridge, of Dunfermline, who has succeeded in transferring the drawing to the woven cloth in the most satisfactory manner, and produced a fabric which may challenge competition with the productions of any linen looms in the world. Four Jacquard machines and upwards of seven thousand cards are employed in its manufacture. Unfortunately, its situation in the Exhibition does not serve to display this Cloth to advantage, the device being entirely lost from the absence of an appropriate light.

It is made two yards in width, and in four different lengths, to suit tables of various sizes. The prices are: two and a half yards long, 70s.; three yards long, 84s.; three and a half yards long, 100s.; four yards long, 110s. Or, half the width, (without the Angels,) to cover the top and ends only of the Altar, (in which case the ends are richly fringed:) two and a half yards long, 35s.; three yards long, 40s.; three and a half yards long, 45s.; four yards long, 50s.

Napkins, corresponding with the Cloth, to cover the vessels, thirty-eight inches square, 15s. each.



Altar Vestments, adapted to the Architecture of a Mediæval Church.

**ALTAR VESTMENTS OF MEDIEVAL STYLE.**—A set of Altar Vestments, consisting of Antependium, Super-frontal, and Cover for Super-altar, of Crimson Silk Velvet, manufactured in Spitalfields, and Embroidered with Mediæval Ornaments of Gold-coloured Silk, thrown and prepared at Leek, and dyed to the permanent shade of Gold-colour in London; the Embroidery executed in Bolton. The centre of the Antependium presents an elaborate Gothic Ornament, surrounding the Sacred Name; the Super-frontal and the termination of the Antependium have a border of the Cross and Fleur-de-lis; and the Super-altar a sentence from the 26th Psalm:—"I will wash my hands in innocency, O LORD, and so will I go to thine altar." The Fringes are made by hand (not manufactured) of Silks corresponding with the colour of the Fabric and of the Embroidery, counter-changed in alternate spaces of three inches each. The whole is powdered with the Fleur-de-lis—an elegant mediæval device, which forms the theme of the entire ornamentation. Ancient examples of the Fleur-de-lis are very frequently met with, *surmounted* by a Crown. For reasons which must be obvious to Ecclesiologists, the position of the Crown is here altered; the symbolism of the former arrangement is necessarily objectionable in the Reformed Church: but the ornament has been retained, without impairing its artistic effect, by divesting it of the inappropriate symbolical allusion.

The charge for similar Vestments of any other device, with the same amount of Embroidery, £52 10s.

An Embroidered Velvet Cover for a Book, placed on this Table, is copied from a beautiful example of sixteenth century binding, in the possession of Thomas Willement, Esq. F.S.A., engraved in Shaw's "Decorative Arts of the Middle Ages." It may be reproduced at a charge of £6 6s.

Embroidered Velvet Kneeling Cushions, £4 10s. each.

Azure and Gold-coloured Pile Velvet Carpet, twenty-seven inches wide, 10s. 6d. per yard; or the same pattern in Brussels Carpet, twenty-seven inches wide, 5s.; or in Kidderminster Carpet, thirty-six inches wide, 3s. 9d.



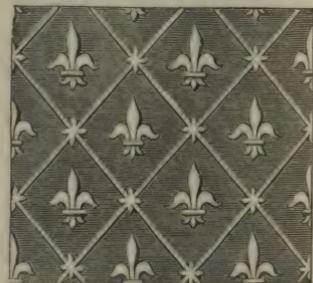


The Border of Pile Velvet Carpet, 5s. per yard; or in Brussels, 2s. 6d.

**MEM.**—This Carpet and Border may be made in any required colours; or any other pattern exhibited may be made in Pile Velvet.

Azure and Gold-coloured Cloth Hangings, two yards wide, 7s. 6d., may be prepared in any required colours.

**MEM.**—*This* particular Hanging is not adapted, from its colours, to be used with an Altar covered with crimson.



**HANGINGS FOR THE INTERIOR OF CHURCH DOORS.**—Of these two specimens are exhibited, and the wood-cut shows the way in which they are intended to be used. Being perfectly noiseless, they are greatly preferable to double doors, take up much less room, and accord with the architecture of a Gothic church, giving it a comfortable and clothed appearance. Price, two yards wide, 7s. 6d. per yard.





Flowing Communion Cloth of Ruby Velvet.

This Velvet Communion Cloth envelopes the Table, reaching to, but not resting on, the floor at the corners. The embroidered devices are in the style of decoration used in this country during the first century after the Reformation.

A similar Altar Cloth, (or one with the same amount of Embroidery,) may be reproduced for £33; the corresponding Cushions, £10; Kneeling Stools, £8 8s.; Covers for two Books, £5; Registers for ditto, 10s.

Carpet of heraldic rose pattern in Brussels, on any colour of ground, 5s. per yard.



**KNEELING HASSOCKS FOR PEWS AND BENCHES.**—The minimum size and minimum price, consistent with convenience and durability, have been aimed at in the manufacture of these Hassocks, which are covered with strong Woollen Cloth. It is hoped that their extensive adoption, particularly in new churches, may induce the practice of kneeling, for which, in numerous instances, no adequate provision is made, and which, when left to be supplied by the congregation, is too frequently neglected.

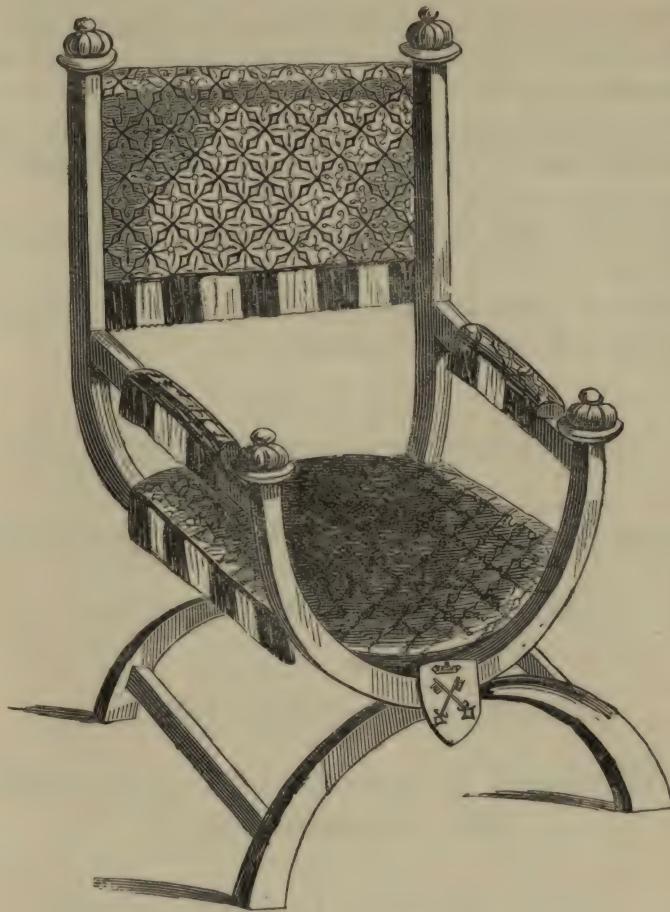
The charge in Drab Colour, with Black Devices, is £5 per hundred, (1s. each;) or in Ingrain Crimson, £6 5s. per hundred, (1s. 3d. each.)

The carriage of this article cannot be paid.

Embroidered Silk Banners of the Archiepiscopal Provinces of Canterbury and York, £2 5s. each.

Banners of the Arms of the British and Colonial Dioceses, and a variety of Ecclesiastical and Heraldic subjects, suited for Sunday schools, at prices from 3s. to £5 each.





Ecclesiastical Chair.

ECCLESIASTICAL CHAIR, EMBROIDERED WITH A DIAPERED DEVICE IN GOLD-COLOURED SILK, UPON PURPLE VELVET.—The wood work of this Chair is copied from an antique example in York Minster, where it is placed on the north side of the Altar, and known as the *Coronation Chair*; it is, however, at least doubtful that it has been applied to such a purpose. Most probably it was the throne used by the ancient Archbishops, when they took part in the services of the Altar, and altogether different from the Archiepiscopal Throne in the Choir. Its arrangement appears to fit it for this purpose, as the opening at the back would admit of the Chesuble being passed through it, while

the Cope, when it was worn, would be spread over the back, by which means these rich vestments escaped injury from being sat upon.

The simplicity and elegance of this ancient form of Chair has induced the attempt to restore it to use. It may be upholstered in a variety of materials, and made an appropriate and inexpensive Church Chair, preferable, it is presumed, to many elaborately covered with *uncomfortable* carvings.

Charge for Chair as exhibited, with corresponding Foot-stool, £15 15s.

Oak Chairs, of the same form, can be supplied from £4. upwards, depending on the expense of upholstery.

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